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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/280,528	03/30/1999	ROBERT A. CORDERY	E-831	5943

7590

03/05/2002

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EXAMINER

DIXON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/280,528

Applicant(s)

CORDERY ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment of 15 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,8,9,25,26,28 and 29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,10-24,27 and 30-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The objections and rejections of the previous action are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments and arguments.

Examiner's objection regarding the use of underlining and bracketing in the specification and claims are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery et al (6,175,827).

As per Claim 7.

Cordery et al ('827) discloses an indicium on a article, see column 9, line 63 – column 10, line 60, and figures 2-5;

a signature generated with a private key of a first party, see column 10, lines 6-8;

a certificate, see column 10, lines 6-8;

information specifying attributes of said article, see column 10, lines 9-21;

said private key of said first party is generated as a function of said certificate, said information and a private key of a certifying authority, said function being chosen so that a party wishing to verify said indicium can determine a public key corresponding to said private key of said first party by operating on said certificate and said information with a corresponding public key of said certifying authority, see column 10, lines 21-60.

Prior Art made of Record

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3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cordery et al (6'295,359) discloses the IBIP architecture with public /private keys, certificates and random number generation, see column 2, lines 28-38 for verification of indicia.

Cordery et al ('896), Kim et al ('136), Ryan, Jr. ('701), Baker et al ('682), Baker et al ('456), Cordery et al ('803), and Pastor ('961) were cited in the previous action as a general state of the art.

.Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-6, 10-24, 27, and 31-32 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per Claim 10.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) does not disclose or fairly teach said certifying authority providing said meter with an integer, said integer being a first function of said private key of said authority; and

said first function, said second function and said published related information are chosen so that a party seeking to verify said indicia can compute said digital postage meter public key by operating on said published related information with said published public key of said authority.

As per Claim 12.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) does not disclose or fairly teach said certifying authority providing said user with an integer, said integer being a first function of said private key of said authority; and

said first function, said second function and said published related information are chosen so that a party seeking to verify said indicia can compute said digital postage meter public key by operating on said published related information with said published public key of said authority.

As per Claims 14, 15, 16, and 17.

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The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) does not disclose or fairly teach a user station which generates and downloads private keys to postage meters as claimed.

As per Claim 31.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of digitally signing of a postal indicium as claimed in step d.

As per Claim 32.

The prior art of record, specifically Pauschinger ('704) does not disclose or fairly teach the method of verification of a postal indicium as claimed in step c.


The claims which depend from the above allowed claims are allowed for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7293 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Dixon". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'T' and a cursive 'D'.

Thomas A. Dixon
Examiner
Art Unit 2161

February 27, 2002